

ll clam, &c. There is an advantage in possessing a choice in this respect; but it should be directed by the knowledge which we have acquired, that some more readily disintegrate than others when exposed to the air. If the upper stratum in a marl bed should, for example, be found to consist principally of scallop shells, it would be advisable to remove this, so as to reach at once the second stratum, which will commonly be found to consist of clam shells. The former must not, however, be thrown away. They should be piled up around the pit; where, by the influence of the atmospheric agents, they will after a while become so disintegrated as to constitute marl of very good quality.

Some marl deposits consist of broken shells so cemented together, that their contents cannot be extracted but in large masses, or hard lumps. In this condition, the material cannot be readily incorporated with the soil. It might be burnt as an impure limestone; but generally speaking, it will be found sufficient to suffer it to remain exposed for one season, which will bring it into a proper state to be hauled out.

In the lower parts of Talbot county where the marl lies deep, occasionally not more than a foot above high water mark, its extraction is inconvenient and laborious. Still, its benefits must not be resigned. Advantage should be taken of low tides to raise it upon the banks, from which it may be hauled at convenient opportunities.

The value of marl is now so generally acknowledged, and its property of improving a soil, and even restoring one totally impoverished, so universally recognised, that no farmer should hesitate to make the hauling of it a regular occupation. Marling to be carried on with advantage, or even with economy, should be carried on throughout the year, or at least during a specified portion of it, by a force expressly set aside for that purpose and none other. "If only a single horse," says Mr Ruffin, "were employed in drawing marl throughout the year, at the moderate allowance of two hundred working days, and one hundred bushels carried out for each, his years work would amount to twenty thousand bushels, or enough for more than sixty acres. This alone, would be a great object effected.